

ذُو الْحِجَّةِ

THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF ZUL HIJAH

**Great Opportunities for
Great Profits**

By

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(Rahmatullahi 'alayh)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَكَفَى وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا الْمُصْطَفَى
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَبَارَكَ وَسَلِّمَ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا كَثِيرًا
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَقَدْ قَالَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى
أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْفَجْرِ ۝ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ۝

“BY THE DAWN AND (BY) TEN NIGHTS.”

[SURAH AL-FAJR 89 : 1/2]

Allah Ta’ala takes a Qasm by the first ten nights of Zul Hijjah. When Allah Ta’ala is taking a Qasm on the blessedness and status of these nights, there can be no doubt of the greatness of these nights. ...Allah Ta’ala is the Creator of the Universe, and Allah Ta’ala has created the days and the nights. As far as the hours of the days and nights, there is no question of different hours. Each day has a fixed twenty-four hours.

We describe certain days of our lives as “memorable” and “enjoyable” and we describe certain days of our lives as “miserable” and “sad”. This alludes to the actions or the happenings of that day, which made the day memorable or miserable. So certain days

become distinguished for us due to the actions that transpired on those days.

As far as Shari'ah is concerned, there is no such thing as the day itself having any misfortune. There is no "bad-luck" day – as people may regard some days. Our deeds make a day good or bad. If we engage in good deeds – we perform our Salaah, fulfil the rights of Allah Ta'ala and the creation, take care of the poor, fast, engage in Zikrullah, Tilawah, Dua and other righteous deeds, that day is a good day; a bright day. If we spend the day in bad deeds – in Zina, in watching porn, swearing, stealing, dealing in interest or engaging in other vices, we have made the day a bad day; a "dark" day. Such a day is not a blessed day for the person, because he disobeyed Allah Ta'ala in that day.

Allah Ta'ala chose these days and nights of Zul Hijjah for Ibaadah. Rasulallah ﷺ, who was the most truthful and who received Wahi (revelation), also informed us as of the speciality of these days and nights and how to occupy our time, whereby we gain the maximum profits of this period of time – this peak period for the Ibaadah of Allah Ta'ala. Not only did Rasulallah ﷺ present to us the greatness of these days and nights, he practically demonstrated the actions that should be carried out during this very Mubarak time.

Rasulallah ﷺ was sinless. No one can engage in more Ibaadah, Zikr, Da'wah, and other good as he did; yet look at how he would stand for hours and hours in Salaah – until his Mubarak feet would swell. Look at how he would place his head in Sajdah for so long that his beloved wife, Hazrat 'Ayesha رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا would fear his soul

had departed. Despite all the responsibilities that were entrusted upon him, he would give exclusive time to the Ibaadah of Allah Ta'ala. ...So whatever Rasulullah ﷺ invited to, he practised upon.

Rasulullah ﷺ said: **“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.”**

The people asked: “Not even Jihad for the sake of Allah?”

He (ﷺ) said: “Not even Jihad for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out, giving himself and his wealth up for the cause (of Allah Ta'ala), and came back with nothing.”¹

Rasulullah ﷺ also directed us towards how to occupy our time: **“No days are as weighty with Allah and so liked by Him for good deeds than the first ten days of Zul Hijjah. So, on these days increasingly read: Subhanallah, La ilaaha illallaah, Alhamdulillah and Allahu Akbar.”**²

And Rasulullah ﷺ said: **“On no days is the worship of Allah desired more than in the first ten days of Zul Hijjah. The fast of each of these days is equal to the fast of a whole year, and the Ibaadah (worship) of each of these nights is equal to the Ibaadah of Lailatul Qadr.”**³

We have to search for Lailatul Qadr in Ramadaan, and here Allah Ta'ala is giving us the rewards of Lailatul Qadr, on each of these nights of Zul Hijjah – indicating their blessedness and greatness.

¹ Sahih Bukhari

² Musnad Ahmad

³ Tirmidhi / Ibn Majah

Sadly, we have become of those who ask: *Is it Fardh? Is it Waajib?*

We learnt the definition of the Fiqh terms: Fardh, Waajib, Sunnah and so forth, and whatever is not Fardh, we leave it out. If something is Nafl, Mustahab, Ghair Muakkadah – we just leave it out. We don't include it in our timetable, and if it is there, we strike it off, once we learn that it is optional and can be left out, and there is no sin in not carrying it out.

The Sahabah-e-Kiraam رضى الله عنهم did not have this weak approach to Deen, this offhand attitude to Deen or this laziness in practising on Deen – as we have. No. ...They strived in even those actions which were optional. Their sound intellect and their deep understanding were evident in the fact that their entire lives were sacrificed upon the Sunnah. They spent their lives seeking Allah Ta'ala's Pleasure and Jannah, and raising the flag of Islam wherever they went.

Our condition becomes apparent when we see how our lives are sacrificed for Dunya; sacrificed for what is temporary and what will be left behind when we depart from this world. Very sadly, we look at the bare minimum when it comes to Ibaadaat. ...Why is it that we do not settle for the bare minimum when it comes to our clothing, our cars, our homes and other material items? Why are we not content with the bare necessities of life, like how we are content with the bare necessities of Deen?

Do we require a very luxury car to get from one place to another? Is this a necessity? ...Whilst it is permissible, if the person has a correct intention and there is no pride, arrogance and boasting, but how unfortunate that we choose the best in material commodities and we

do not seek the best in spiritual commodities – Al-Baaqiyatus Saalihaat (the everlasting, enduring good deeds). Allah Ta’ala presents to us what is better – so that we profit tremendously.

“WEALTH AND CHILDREN ARE (BUT) ADORNMENT OF THE WORLDLY LIFE. BUT THE ENDURING GOOD DEEDS ARE BETTER TO YOUR LORD FOR REWARD AND BETTER FOR (ONE’S) HOPE.”

[SURAH AL-KAHF 18 : 46]

Allah Ta’ala is seeking from us the best of deeds, not the best of material possessions:

“(HE) WHO CREATED DEATH AND LIFE TO TEST YOU (AS TO) WHICH OF YOU IS BEST IN DEED - AND HE IS THE EXALTED IN MIGHT, THE FORGIVING.”

[SURAH AL-MULK 67 : 2]

What was the purpose of these virtues which are related in these Ahādith?

Rasulullah ﷺ loved the Ummah. He wanted for every Ummati to enter Jannah, with the maximum rewards. These virtues were presented to us so that we appreciate and work in achieving all the rewards attached to these days and nights.

We want maximum profits on worldly investments. We appreciate the person who directs us to the right investments – because that will yield great profits; big returns. We value such friendship and welcome such wonderful advice. Let us appreciate the priceless advice and guidance of Rasulullah ﷺ, which will earn for us the vast and immense profits of the Akhirah (Hereafter). Ibaadaat

yield Sawaab (rewards). This is the currency of the Aakhirah. This is what we need to take with us.

When we travel in the world, we require certain currency. Not every type of currency will be accepted in a country. If a person takes Zimbabwean Dollars, then that kind of money will be useless and won't be accepted in any other country. Moreover, we will require a massive suitcase to carry those dollars. ...When I went to Zimbabwe, a few dollars made me a millionaire. At one stage, a hundred-billion-dollar and a hundred-trillion-dollar bill were the currency in Zimbabwe ...but that amount could not even purchase a bus ticket⁴.

We are all traveling towards the Hereafter and have to accumulate the much-needed currency of the Hereafter. We will require a lot of this currency.

If we accumulate only the Rands, Dollars and Pounds of this world, and give no attention to securing that wealth which will make us multi-rich in the next life, we will find ourselves to be paupers – and full of regret and remorse for having wasted the opportunity of becoming rich in the true sense of the word.

These blessed days and nights are a manifestation of Allah Ta'ala's great love for us. Out of His Infinite Generosity, He gives us these wonderful opportunities whereby we multiply our rewards and gain the bounties of Jannah with ease, Insha-Allah. Added to this, Allah Ta'ala's floodgates of Mercy and Forgiveness are wide open – and are

⁴ This was around 2008 - 2009, when the Zimbabwean currency became very weak.

not restricted to only the Hujjaaj; rather His Mercy and Forgiveness are for the entire Ummah.

Of course, these fasts are not in the category of the Ramadaan fasts, which are Fardh. These fasts are Nafl. If a person has many responsibilities or his health is ailing, and fasting will weaken him or prevent him from fulfilling his duties at work, etc., the person should not fast. There is no sin. However, we should be desirous that if we had the ability, we would have kept these fasts. On that good intention, the rewards are secured, Insha-Allah. Where we can keep a few fasts or at least the fast of the 9th of Zul Hijjah, let us try and gain the rewards, Insha-Allah. ...Rasulullah ﷺ was asked about fasting on the Day of Arafah (the 9th of Zul Hijjah). He said: **“It atones for the sins of the previous year and of the coming year.”**⁵

We should try to bring into these Mubarak days and nights, as many good deeds as we can. If a person does not engage in any extra deeds, the least he should do is abstain from all sins. **Let us not spend this Mubarak time displeasing Allah Ta’ala.** Let it not be that our attitude is: *We don’t care. We will not give up our sins. We will continue as we like.*

How will we face Rasulallah ﷺ on the Day of Qiyamah? If he has to hold our garments and say: *You claimed to be my Ummatees and you want the drink of Kauthar? – But where did you spend those days and nights? How did you spend those days and nights, despite me informing you of their blessedness? ...How will we answer?*

⁵ Sahih Muslim

For the Friends of Allah Ta’ala, these days are like another Ramadaan to enjoy. For them, this is another occasion to take from Allah Ta’ala’s treasures and enjoy the abundant Anwaar. Come, let us join the ranks of Allah Ta’ala’s close and beloved friends by appreciating these great opportunities and enjoying the great profits in both worlds. Let us give up sins and move in the direction of Allah Ta’ala’s obedience and pleasure.

May Allah Ta’ala grant us the understanding and Taufeeq of maximising on these beautiful opportunities that are found in this month of Zul Hijjah.

TAKBIRAAT OF TASHREEQ

It is Waajib (obligatory) for every adult Muslim to recite the Takbiraat of Tashreeq audibly, ONCE, after every Fardh Salaah, from Fajr of the 9th of Zul Hijjah to Asr of the 13th of Zul Hijjah.

Takbeer should be recited immediately after completing the Fardh Salaah. Females should recite the Takbeer softly.

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ

وَاللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ وَلِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ

*“Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La-ilaaha Illallaah, Wallaahu Akbar,
Allahu Akbar, Walillahil-hamd”*

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